

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 118475 TOSEC 010134

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O: M TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118475 TOSEC 010134

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK PARIS
CANBERRA GENEVA GENEVA DTG O R 211215Z MAY 75 FM VIENTIANE

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 3575

CANBERRA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, LA, US

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 118309

1. UNDERSTAND FULLY YOUR CONCERN REGARDING MAKING ANY
THREAT OF AID CUT-OFF. IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO BE
THREATENING, AND IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH SOUVANNA AND
PHOUMI, I HAVE NOT BEEN. YOUR INSTRUCTIONS HAVE HELPED,
BUT WE NEED MORE AUTHORITY. SPECIFICALLY, WE NEED TO BE
ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THEIR EVIDENT INTEREST
IN PURSUING DISCUSSIONS ON AID WHICH RAMSEY AND I HAVE
ENCOURAGED. KEY TO SITUATION IN MANY WAYS IS OUR
ABILITY TO SAY THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PGNU
PROPOSALS ON RENEGOTIATION 1951 AGREEMENT AND TERMINA-
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PAGE 02 STATE 118475 TOSEC 010134

TION OF USAID AS A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION. IN OUR

JUDGMENT THERE IS NO CHANCE OF SUSTAINING USAID AS IT HAS
BEEN CONSTITUTED; IT HAS BECOME TOO MUCH OF A POLITICAL
TARGET NOT ONLY FROM PL BUT ALSO FROM FRIENDLY LAO.
IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT AFTER NEARLY 20 YEARS OF A
LARGE AND ACTIVE AMERICAN PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY, MANY LAO RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY HAVE DEVELOPED A
GOOD DEAL OF RESENTMENT OVER THIS ISSUE.

2. THEREFORE, WE REQUEST AUTHORITY TO ACCEDE TO THE
EXPECTED REQUEST BY PGNU TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
WHOLE QUESTION OF AID. WE SHALL SEND IN OUR RECOMMENDA-
TIONS ON NEGOTIATING TEAM AND STRAGECY WHEN FORMAL
REQUEST TO NEGOTIATE IS PRESENTED BY PGNU.

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UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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